

Retainer-based physician practice

ISSUE: Retainer-based medicine (also called concierge medicine, boutique medicine, or direct care) is a physician practice model that has received growing attention. How does this practice model work? How many retainer-based physicians are in the United States? What impact does it have on access to care for Medicare beneficiaries?

KEY POINTS:

MedPAC contracted with NORC at the University of Chicago and Georgetown University to conduct a study of retainer-based practice models in the United States. Elizabeth Hargrave (NORC) will present the results of this study. Topics will include:

- Description of retainer-based practice models
- Range of fees
- Growth in the number of physicians in retainer-based practices
- Geographic characteristics
- Specialty characteristics
- Impact on physicians
- Impact on beneficiary access to care

ACTION: After the presentation, Commissioners will have the opportunity to ask questions and discuss relevant issues that arise.

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